The Rural Sanitary Authority.
The Stockbridge Union.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen.

During the year 1896 the deaths of 84 persons of all ages, and from all causes were registered in the district; the number in 1895 being 97, and that in 1894 being 84. These deaths were at the rate of 13.1 per 1000 of the population. Of this number 11 were of children under 1 year of age and 8 under 5, 2 of 5 and under 15, 2~~4~~ 5 of persons over 25, and under 65, 37 of people over 65 and upwards.

The proportion borne by the infant mortality is not so high as it was last year.

The deaths were registered thus — 1 from Whooping Cough, 1 from Scarlet fever, 2 from diarrhœa 1 from rheumatic fever, 8 from phthisis, 11 from bronchitis, pneumonia and pleurisy 8 from heart-disease, and 52 from other causes.

The births during the year were 156, the number being 143 in 1895, and 170 in 1894

Cases of diseases of the respiratory organs, especially local inflammatory affections as pneumonia and bronchitis are fewer than in 1895, being 11, whilst in 1895 there were 1[illegible]

The deaths from phthisis (including tuberculosis) were 8, which is an increase on the last two years, as in 1895 there were 5, and in 1894 there was only one case.

The deaths from heart-disease are 8 in number which is the same as last year.

Scarlet Fever.

On the 8th of April I received notification of a case of Scarlet fever (Ethel Howard) at Kingsombourne. I went there and inquired into the origin of the case, but could not trace it. There was nothing insanitary in connection with the cottage.

On the 15th of April I heard that Lucy and Catherine Dalton of Kingsombourne were suffering from Scarlet fever. I went there and found that they had been nowhere except to school. In all there were 18 cases of scarlet fever at Kingsombourne I ordered the Schools to be closed, and there were no fresh cases.

On the 29th of June I was told of a case of scarlet fever at Ashley. On inquiring into the matter I ascertained that the child had been sent away from Southampton whilst her mother brother and sister were suffering from Scarlet fever, to her Grandparents at Ashley. I had the case isolated, used disinfectants, and it spread no further.

An outbreak of scarlet fever at Longstock was notified to me in August. On going there I learnt that there were some children from London who lodged with the cottagers, and Whites' children were in the habit of playing with them. Whether they brought the infection down with them or not I cannot say. All of Whites' children, eight in number, and the mother were down with it, and the eldest daughter died. The cottage was very clean and there was nothing insanitary about the place.

Diphtheria.

On the 14th of April I was informed of a case

of diphtheria at Kingsomborne, the patient being a daughter of Mr. Cleverley. I went there and inspected the cottage and their surroundings. In some years we have had trouble with these cottages, privies and manure heaps. I ordered the privies to be emptied, and the manure heap to be removed. I supplied them with disinfectants. On the 16th of December I received notification of a case of diphtheria at Leckford. I found that Ellen Pike had just returned from a visit to Winchester, and I am of opinion that she brought it with her.

Erysipelas.

There was a case of erysipelas at Lower Wallop.

Whooping Cough.

There was an epidemic of whooping cough at Broughton.

Influenza.

There were a few cases of a very mild type.

Diarrhoea.

Forty cases of this complaint came under my notice during the year, most of them during the summer months. There were two deaths.

The Sanitary Condition of the district.

During the year I have twice systematically inspected the whole district.

In Broughton the greater part of the village is drained into cess pools, the lower part of Broughton into the rivers.

The greater part of Stockbridge is drained into the many streams running through the town, there being few cess pools.

In Kingsomborne every thing goes into cess pools. This is also the case in Ashley, Upsomborne and Leckford

Houghton and Longstock are very low lying villages, and they adopt the earth closet system.
In East and West Leytheley there is a clay subsoil, and the inhabitants use cess-pools; there are no earth closets.
The drains in Upper and Lower Wallop in some cases flow into the streams, but chiefly into cess pools.

Water Supply.

During the long drought of last summer I paid several visits to the different villages, and inquired about the water supply: no complaints were made of it being short, or of the water being impure.
The sanitary improvement which I should like carried out in the district would be to improve the cottages, and to make the tenants keep them clean and tidy. I am afraid, however, that would be an improvement difficult to effect, as many of the cottagers move about every year from village to village.

The Inspector of Nuisances' Report.

3 Houses Whitewashed
5 " disinfected.
1 house unfit for habitation.
4 wells cleaned out.
1 new kerb.
20 closets repaired.
2 " new
25 " cleaned out.
1 new drain
1 new catchpit
1 " fence do

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1 Cesspool covered.
3 rivers cleaned.
1 bed disinfected
1 " destroyed.
1 pump repaired.
disinfectants supplied.
1 case of overcrowding.
3 slaughter houses inspected.
1 " cleaned.
2 dairies & cowsheds inspected.
1 certificate concerning efficient water.
1 pigsty removed.
8 pigsties cleaned.

Gentlemen, I have the honour to be
Your humble servant.
James Clapperton.
M. O. H.

Feb. 15th 1897.